whether there is petroleum at Alleppey. I will have it used for that purpose along with various others. As for the other objections raised by some members on the other side of the House, Mr. Velu Pillai has very ably defended--or advocated—the cause of the boring machine. So I need not enter upon that subject. With these few remarks, I move for the grant.

The demand was put to the vote and carried.

The Council adjourned for lunch at 2-18 P. M. and met again at 3-5 P. M.

DEMAND XX—PUBLIC WORKS.

MR. K. V. NATESA AIYAR (*Chief Engineer*) : Sir, I rise to move for a supplementary grant not exceeding Rs. 63,770 (Rs. 58,370 on account of additional allotment *mostly* for means of communications in the northern taluks of the State, and Rs. 5,400 for an additional temporary staff, etc., in connection with the restoration of irrigation works).

In moving the above, I shall place before the members of the Council a few facts. There was considerable discontent at the last budget session of the Legislative Council, that the allotments for communications in the northern taluks were inadequate and that the promises held out in the Dewan's replies at the last S. M. P. Assembly session had not been kept.

It was stated by me in my speech at the general discussion of the budget on 3rd August last that if some more schemes and estimates were got ready during the course of the year, they would be taken up by applying for supplemental grants. The year 1098 has also closed with a decent surplus. Accordingly, lists of urgent works which could be taken up this year itself were prepared and some incomplete works of 1098 omitted to be provided for in the budget were also included therein. The additional grant now applied for amounts to Rs. 58,370, of which a sum of Rs. 8,360 is for works arranged for in 1098 and the balance of Rs. 50,010 is all for new works proposed to be taken up. This additional grant includes a provision, of Rs. 1,600 for only one building work; "certain improvements to the District Hospital at Vaikam, extending the operation room." This has been pressed on the Government as urgent and the estimate has been got ready.

Out of the sum of Rs. 56,770 which is for communications, the Kodayar Project Division will get Rs. 5,960, the Quilon P. W. Division Rs. 10,500, the Kottayam P. W. Division Rs. 29,660, and the Alwaye P. W. Division Rs. 10,650.

MR. M. K. KHADIR PILLAI (*Nominated*) : I want to know how much has been set apart for Alwaye.

PRESIDENT : Rs. 10,000 and odd.

MR. K. V. NATESA AIYAR (*Chief Engineer*) : For want of time, the list of the works has not been placed on the table. So I shall read them from the list I have with me.

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

LIST OF WORKS FOR WHICH FUDNS ARE APPLIED FOR.

No.	Service and Major Heads.	Division.	Taluk.	Name of works.	Authority.	Estimate Rs.	Grant required Rs.	Remarks.
1	Canals	K.	Shertallai	Improving Puttan todu at Tannirmukkam and extending it.	...	...	4,000	The people have been pressing for this and the estimate is under preparation.
2	Canals	K	Kottayam	Removal of curves in the Chengallam river.	4262/ 17-6-23	860	860	The work was arranged for at the close of 1098 and omitted to be provided in the budget.
3	Bridges and culverts	K.P.	Kalkulam (old Eraniel)	Reconstructing the combined surplus bridge over Kalpadi road.	...	460	460	Work urgent. The estimate ready.
4	...	K.P.	Agastisvaram (old Eraniel)	Reconstructing the bridge in 7th mile Eraniel-Rajakkamangalam road washed away by the floods of 1098.	...	...	2,000	Work urgent. The estimate is ready.
5	...	Q.	Mavelikara	Renewing the platform of the Karippuzha bridge on the 4th mile Mavelikara-Trikunnappuzha road.	...	6,380	2,500	Work urgent. Estimate under preparation.
6	...	K.	Tiruvalla	Reconstructing the Pallippalam bridge at Tiruvalla.	5398/ 25-11-23	12,200	6,000	This was omitted to be provided in the budget. Revised estimate under preparation. But the land acquisition has been arranged for in 1098. Compensation may amount to Rs. 5,800.
7	...	K.	Kottayam	Repairing the Manganam bridge in 1/8 mile of Putuppalli-Karukachal road.	...	...	1,000	Work urged for by the Division Officer.
8	...	K.	Do.	Repairing breaches on Kottayam	...	...	300	Necessary to put the road in order.

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

LIST OF WORKS FOR WHICH FUNDS ARE APPLIED FOR. (*Contd.*)

No.	Service and Major Heads.	Division.	Taluk.	Name of works.	Authority.	Estimate Rs.	Grant required Rs.	Remarks.
9	Bridges and culverts	K.	Changanachery	Constructing a culvert on the Kanjirapalli-Kunnumbhagam road 6th mile 6th furlong.	985/6-7-23	1,830	1,500	This work was arranged for in 1098, but could not be taken up in that year.
10	...	A.	Kunnatnad	Renewing the platform of the bridge on the Edappalli-Peruntur road.	...	650	650	Estimate received and the work is reported to be urgent.
11	Ferries	A.	Minachil	Providing *junghar* and ferry across the Kandanad stream on the road from the 1st mile, Antianad and Melkavu road to the 8th mile, Lalam-Todupuzha road.	...	...	800	This ferry service is being arranged for as the bridge prayed for was considered unnecessary. The work is urgently necessary in the interests of traffic.
12	Communications-roads	K.P.	Kalkulam	Improvements to Perinchilampu road.	...	...	1,000	Work urgent. The estimate called for in G. O. No. 1673/23-4-23 is ready.
13	...	K.P.	Agastisvaram	Metalling the 1st 2 miles of Santapuram road.	...	2,650	2,500	Work urgent. Estimate ready.
14	...	Q.	Pattanamtitta	Metalling the Pattanamtitta-Kozhancheri road.	...	...	5,000	It was promised in the last session of the Assembly that this would be executed section by section. The road is in urgent need of improvement.
15	...	Q.	Do.	Road from Kozhancheri to Cherukolpuzha.	...	...	2,000	The people are agitating for the work. Estimate received and ready for submission to Government. This connects the Puvanakkadavu-Cherukolpuzha road with the Kozhancheri-Pattanamtitta road.

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

No.	Service and Major Heads.	Division.	Taluk.	Name of works.	Authority.	Estimate Rs.	Grant required Rs.	Remarks.
16	...	Q	Kottarakara	Diverting the Parippalli-Mattatura road in 2nd and 3rd mile in lieu of reconstruction of the 2nd mile bridge.	...	...	1,000	Work urgent.
17	...	K	Ettumanur	Re-gravelling the M. C. road-miles 101 and 103.	....	...	2,000	The road was bad and had to be put in order at the time of H. E. the Governor's visit.
18	...	A	Minachil	Improvements to Lalam-Punjar road.	...	...	4,000	Road bad and the worst portions are proposed to be improved.
19	...	A.	Shertallai	Improving the road from Shertallai to Arattunkal.	...	...	10,000	The allotment is (a) to supplement the budget grant for the Arattunkal road and (b) for collection of materials for the bridge over the canal near the Munsiff's Court at Shertallai.
20	...	A	Muvattupuzha	Raising the low portions of Muvattupuzha-Petta road.	...	1,180	1,200	Estimate received. Work urgent.
21	...	A	Todupuzha	Improvements to Plakkuzha-Todupuzha road-5 to 10 miles.	...	...	5,000	The worst portions are proposed to be improved.
22	...	A	Muvattupuzha	Remetalling miles 5 and 6 of Muvattupuzha-Todupuzha road.	...	...	3 000	Do. The other miles are in fairly good order.
23	Buildings-Medical	A	Vaikam	Improvements to the District Hospital at Vaikam: extending the operation room.	...	1,600	1,600	Work urged by the Darbar Physician. Estimate ready.

As regards the grant for the temporary staff I may state as follows.

With a view to increase the output of paddy in the country, the Economic Development Board passed a resolution at its meeting dated the 19th May 1922, requesting the Government to appoint a special Irrigation Engineer not below the rank of an Executive Engineer with sufficient staff to help him to carry out the investigations connected with new irrigation projects, restoration of minor irrigation works, repair of irrigation and drainage channels in Punja areas, etc. The President of the Board forwarded the resolution to Government and urged upon them the necessity for early action on the lines recommended by the Board, in the interests of paddy cultivation in the State. When the matter was referred to me, I submitted proposals for a suitable temporary staff consisting of two Sub-Engineers and three First Grade Supervisors with establishment, for the investigation of irrigation sources throughout the State and for the execution of the estimates that might be prepared as the result thereof. The staff was to continue for three years with an annual expenditure of Rs. 24,387. The Finance Committee, at its meeting before the last budget session, was not, however, prepared to accept what was to it a large scheme.

The restoration of irrigation works (mainly minor works) in the taluks of Kalkulam, Vilavankod, Neyyattinkara and Trivandrum is more urgent than in other parts of the State which receive a larger rainfall and do not depend to the same extent on tanks. The subject has been repeatedly pressed on the attention of the Government in representations year after year at the Assembly sessions. The discussions in the Council have also brought the question into prominence. A committee is now examining the condition of irrigation works in the Trivandrum taluk and as a result of its deliberations specific recommendations for the improvement of irrigation sources in the taluk are likely to be made. An allotment of Rs. 35,000 has been made for the improvement of irrigation sources in these taluks for 1099, but unless large allotments are repeated for some years, the work of restoring irrigation sources in these taluks is not likely to be appreciably achieved. In order to be in a position to expend these large allotments, prompt investigation and preparation of estimates are necessary, and this the normal staff cannot manage to do along with its current work.

I was, therefore, asked to send up revised proposals for a small temporary staff to investigate and prepare estimates for tanks, channels an other irrigation works in these taluks. My proposals are:—

One Supervisor II grade	Rs. 125-5/1-150.
One do. III do.	Rs. 80-5/1-120.
One Overseer	Rs. 50-5/2-70.
Two clerks	Rs. 30 each.

This scheme will involve an annual outlay of Rs. 5,100 including provision for T. A. and contingencies or Rs. 450 per month. This staff may be retained according to necessity in future years. The grant required for the remaining five months of the current year commencing

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

[President.]

from Kumbham is only 5 × 450 or Rs. 2,250 including the pay of the Second Grade Supervisor, out of which a sum of Rs. 1,625 has to be voted by the Council.

I hope I have now sufficiently explained matters to convince this House of the necessity for the above two grants and I accordingly beg to move for the same, *viz.*, Rs. 58,370 for works and Rs. 1,625 for the temporary staff, making a total of Rs. 59,995.

MR. JOSEPH PANJIKARAN (*Shertallai*): I wish to know whether this allotment is from the reserve fund, or whether it is a new grant.

PRESIDENT: If it is from the reserve fund he need not have come up to the Council for the grant.

MR. JOSEPH PANJIKARAN (*Shertallai*): Some provision is made for the Muttam-Arattunkal road. The Chief Engineer was referring to it. I wish to know whether that allotment is from the reserve fund.

PRESIDENT: Who made that allotment from the reserve fund?

MR. JOSEPH PANJIKARAN (*Shertallai*): The Dewan of Travancore when he visited Shertallai said that Rs. 10,000 would be allotted from the reserve fund.

PRESIDENT: You say that the Dewan, who is myself, did it. To the best of my recollection I never said so. I am afraid you have not understood Mr. Natesa Aiyar correctly. If it is out of the reserve fund, there is no need for coming to the Council. Reserve funds are intended for unforeseen works.

MR. JOSEPH PANJIKARAN (*Shertallai*): He referred to about Rs. 15,000 which was allotted for the canal from Puttanangadi to Vembanad lake, for the road from Muttam to Arattunkal and for certain other works, the allotment being made from the reserve fund.

PRESIDENT: The Chief Engineer did not refer to any reserve fund.

MR. G. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Neyyattinkara*): I wish to know what portion of the allotment for minor irrigation works for the Neyyattinkara taluk has already been spent.

MR. K. V. NATESA AIYAR (*Chief Engineer*): That does not arise here. I have not got the figures.

MR. G. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Neyyattinkara*): I wish to know whether he can give approximate figures at least.

MR. K. V. NATESA AIYAR (*Chief Engineer*): Much work could not have been done during the wet months of the year. As regards new works, the estimates are getting ready. I can give him the information, if wanted, work by work. The total is not available.

PRESIDENT: That is not the question, Mr. Natesa Aiyar. He wants to know the total expenditure already incurred.

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

MR. K. V. NATESA AIYAR (*Chief Engineer*): I have not got the totals. The expenditure already incurred might not be much.

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha*): I wish to know whether Ambalapuzha is also included among the northern taluks of the State.

MR. K. V. NATESA AIYAR (*Chief Engineer*): I have read all the works included.

PRESIDENT: Ambalapuzha is in Central Travancore; it is not in North Travancore.

MR. K. V. NATESA AIYAR (*Chief Engineer*): He may take it that taluks to the north of Quilon are the northern taluks meant here.

PRESIDENT: That is not the question, Mr. Natesa Aiyar. He is asking you to interpret the term "northern taluks of Travancore" as distinguished from "taluks north of Qulion."

MR. K. V. NATESA AIYAR (*Chief Engineer*): Each member can interpret it as he likes.

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha*): I want his interpretation. The reference is to the northern taluks of the State. My query is whether Ambalapuzha is also included there.

MR. K. V. NATESA AIYAR (*Chief Engineer*): Northern taluks may be taken to mean those north of Quilon.

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha*): I wish to know whether Ambalapuzha has been included as one of such northern taluks.

MR. K. V. NATESA AIYAR (*Chief Engineer*): I have already read the list of taluks included.

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum* cum *Nedumangad*): May I know whether Mr. Natesa Aiyar is aware of any Government order or proceedings which declares particular taluks to be northern, and others southern?

MR. K. V. NATESA AIYAR (*Chief Engineer*): I am not aware.

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha*): May I know whether it is likely that Ambalapuzha will, one of these days, be benefited by this allotment?

MR. K. V. NATESA AIYAR (*Chief Engineer*): This amount may not benefit Ambalapuzha, but I recently received a report about the Ambalapuzha-Takazhi road. I have asked for estimates for improving it and strengthening the bridges. Probably it will come for another supplementary grant when the estimate is ready. (*Laughter.*)

PRESIDENT: May I take it that the House grants the demand?

MR. S. KRISHNA AIYAR (*Mavelikara* cum *Kartikapalli*): I beg to oppose this motion. I am prepared to grant that all the items included in the supplementary budget are very necessary and very useful

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

[Mr. J. John Nidiry.]

for the general public of Travancore. But this has been sprung upon us as a surprise and we have not had breathing time enough to read or consider and intelligently make any observations upon the matter just before us. During the general budget discussion advance copies are given to us and we are enabled to take an intelligent interest in it and object to individual allotments. In this instance a wholesale sum for about 23 subjects has been sprung upon us. Even the very copy in my hand has been given only during the course of Mr. Natesa Aiyar's motion.

PRESIDENT: It is an unfortunate omission. The list should have been with you earlier.

MR. S. KRISHNA AIYAR (*Mavelikara* cum *Kartikapalli*): As a mere matter of protest—neither on the ground of utility nor urgency—I oppose the grant.

MR. N. RAMAKRISHNA PILLAI (*Vaikam* cum *Ettumanur*): Sir, I feel I shall not be justified in opposing the motion. But it will not be fair on my part to neglect to take this opportunity of entering my emphatic protest against the way in which the taluks of Vaikam and Ettumanur have been treated in this arrangement. The attention of Government has been brought to the fact that the minor irrigation works in Vaikam and Ettumanur taluks are in a very backward condition, and that early measures may be adopted to remove that defect. The doles meted out to these two taluks are extremely meagre and I hope the earliest opportunity will be taken advantage of to remove this defect. I support the motion.

REV. FR KURIAKOSE VETTIKKAPALLI (*Todupuzha* cum *Kunnatnad*): Sir, I also beg to support the motion. But in doing so I have to say that the cases of Todupuzha and Kunnatnad have not been considered as they ought to have been. I pointed out during the general discussion of the budget that the Dewan, in spite of repeated promises to the representatives of the Kunnatnad and Todupuzha taluks, would not increase the present budget allotment. Even in the supplementary grant demanded, I see there is only Rs. 650 for Todupuzha and there is only a very small sum of Rs. 800 for providing a *junghar* in the Kunnatnad taluk. If the Chief Engineer thinks that, with this amount Todupuzha and Kunnatnad will be satisfied, he is mistaken. Still we must be thankful for what we have got, and pray for more. I would request the Chief Engineer that, when he comes with another supplementary grant, he would come up with a larger demand. The second point is that, year after year, a good sum is allotted for public works. But, at the end of the year, the greater portion of the sum remains unspent. I hope this year the same fate may not await the sum provided in the budget.

MR. J. JOHN NIDIRY (*Changanachery* cum *Minachil*): I have also great pleasure in supporting the demand made by the Chief Engineer. But, in doing so, I have to make one observation

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

I appreciate very much the sympathy shown by the Chief Engineer and the Government in supplementing the expenditure on communication in northern taluks. But I wish to add that, instead of providing Rs. 5,400 for additional temporary staff when the general complaint is that we have got too many employees in the P. W. D., some re-arrangement of the staff could have been very well thought of; and instead of spending more money on the additional staff, if that money had also been used for further expansion of communications, we would have been very thankful. With these observations, I support the demand.

MR. JOSEPH PANJIKARAN (*Shertallai*): I support the motion generally. I have also to enter my protest as to the way in which this item of expenditure has been sprung upon the Council to-day. We are very much pleased to see that some more money is going to be spent on the improvement of means of communication. But one thing I have to observe—and it is a thing to which I drew the attention of the Government last time—is that the money should be spent, and ought to be spent at the proper time. The great proportion of the money is not as a matter of fact utilised. When the rains set in, we cannot have much work done with advantage. On the other hand, the money could be better employed if that is spent at least at the time when there will be no over-pouring of rain. If the money had been spent by this time so far as the bridge construction or the road is concerned, I think it would have doubled the effect. What is generally done is that at the close of the year they rush in and then show off some account of expenditure. I do not want to accuse anybody of misappropriation. What I want to say is this. The money ought to be spent properly. It will be ill-spent if it is not spent at the time when it will supply the needs of the people; but all the same the Government treasury will be empty. The next thing is that the money should be actually spent and should not be allowed to lapse. Last year some amount was allowed to lapse. I think that should not be allowed this year. I would have spoken on some other matters. But the President said it would be discussed at some convenient time.

PRESIDENT: No, at some convenient place.

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha*): I support the motion for the demand. But I have to bring to the notice of the Chief Engineer some facts. There is a belief that, if there is any one department in the State which has a plethora of officers, it is the P. W. D. That being the case, I take serious objection to the further growth of the staff. Then with regard to the merits of the supplementary grant itself, if I am not going to be put down as jealous of the northern taluks, I would make one observation. That is to say, the comparative urgency of lines of communication in the northern taluks and the entire State will have to be taken into consideration before an exclusive devotion to any particular part of the State is admitted. It is in that light that the question has to be approached. No doubt, the northern taluks

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

[Mr. K V. Natesa Aiyar.]

of the State suffer very badly on account of the absence of communication. But it does not mean thereby that other taluks such as my own are extremely blessed in the matter of communication. For example, I drew attention to the condition of the road from Ambalapuzha to Takazhi. Except in the town of Alleppey, I think that is the only provincial road in the Ambalapuzha taluk. I would challenge the whole set of P. W. D. officers if they can go over it without breaking their shins during the rainy season. I am raising the question why the inhabitants of Ambalapuzha taluk should be called upon to pay their dues under the Ferries Regulation and all manner of other Regulations without ever being served with proper means of communication. It is that aspect of the question that I would bring to the attention of the esteemed Chief Engineer, and I would request the member in charge to look at the comparative urgency of communications as between the various taluks. Even between the northern taluks there is an amount of suppressed jealousy, so much so that the whole matter will have to be viewed with respect to the nature of the density of the population that will be benefited. All these aspects have to be considered before the P. W. D. enters upon the proposal now before it. That is all that I have to bring to its notice.

MR. K. V. NATESA AIYAR (*Chief Engineer*): Sir, with regard to the complaint that certain taluks have been neglected, I would only say that the original list prepared included some more works. The Government after a critical review in consultation with me passed it for Rs. 58,370. If more estimates are got ready and if other urgent works are brought to notice, they will also be considered.

Some members have said that the grants allotted have not been fully spent. I may say in reply that every effort is being made to spend the whole grant. There is an unfortunate impression that there was lapse last year. I may correct it and say that there was no such lapse but there was an excess under communications. This year, up to the end of Vrischikam, 26 per cent. of the grant under communications has been spent by the Alwaye, Kottayam and Quilon Divisions; the Trivandrum Division has spent 40 per cent. and the Kodayar Project Division 20 per cent. Such a percentage of outlay in the first four months of the year is rather creditable. Every Division Officer is endeavouring to expend the grants allotted and to carry out the works vigorously.

Some members pointed out that the additional temporary staff in question was unnecessary. Heavy retrenchment has been effected in 1098 and I have fully explained this in my budget speech in August last. The Salaries Committee has also said that the retrenched staff would be only just sufficient for the normal work of the department. For any intensive work such as the rapid investigation and restoration of irrigation works, additional staff will have to be provided. The Economic Development Board recommended that irrigation works should be speedily improved, and that an Executive Engineer, with sufficient executive staff under

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

him, was necessary. I first recommended that two Sub-Engineers and three Supervisors need alone be appointed and that the Executive Engineer was not necessary. The present proposal is for a reduced staff of only two junior Supervisors to make a beginning in the Trivandrum Revenue Division. This establishment would cost only Rs. 2,250 during the current year, assuming they would be employed from the 1st Kumbham.

MR. M. K. KHADIR PILLAI (*Nominated*): May I know from the Chief Engineer how much money is allotted in the supplementary demand for the Alwaye Division?

PRESIDENT: Rs. 10,000 and odd—he has already said that.

MR. K. V. NATESA AIYAR (*Chief Engineer*): Rs. 10,650 for communications in the Alwaye Division proper, omitting the Shertallai works, as these have been recently transferred to the Kottayam Division.

MR. M. K. KHADIR PILLAI (*Nominated*): But I find in this list that only Rs. 1,150 is allotted. I want to know whether this list is correct.

MR. K. V. NATESA AIYAR (*Chief Engineer*): I will read out the items relating to the Alwaye Division:—Renewing the platform of the bridge on the Edappalli--Peruntur road—Rs. 650; providing *junghar* and ferry across the Kandanad stream on the road from the first mile, Antianad and Melkavu road, to the eighth mile, Lalam—Todupuzha road—Rs. 800; raising the low portions of the Muvattupuzha-Petta road—Rs. 1,200; improvements to the Palakkuzha—Todupuzha road, five to ten miles—Rs. 5,000; remetalling miles five and six of the Muvattupuzha—Todupuzha road—Rs. 3,000; and certain improvements to the District Hospital at Vaikam (operation room), Rs. 1,600. Total—Rs. 12,250.

PRESIDENT: Mr. Khadir Pillai, Mr. Natesa Aiyar will be able to explain to you the details later on if you go to him. Please proceed, Mr. Natesa Aiyar.

MR. K. V. NATESA AIYAR (*Chief Engineer*): Unless the Council is prepared to sanction additional staff, it is not possible to ask for more grants for works. I have also to point out that money is never spent at the improper season. All works are executed in the proper working seasons. Mr. Panjikaran seems to have some misapprehension. I hope it will be cleared soon.

MR. JOSEPH PANJIKARAN (*Shertallai*): I never said that money was being spent through improper channels. I said that it should be spent at the proper time.

MR. K. V. NATESA AIYAR (*Chief Engineer*): The works which cannot be done in a particular season are not done in that season. That is why the expenditure is not proportionate in the several months of the year.

I think I have answered all the points raised in the discussion. I have nothing more to add.

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

[Mr. R. Krishna Pillai.]

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum* cum *Nedumangad*): May I know from Mr. Natesa Aiyar if he is in the habit of inspecting roads after showers?

MR. K. V. NATESA AIYAR (*Chief Engineer*): Yes, I have inspected many times.

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum* cum *Nedumangad*): Has he not found roads in the Trivandrum town unfit after a rain?

MR. K. V. NATESA AIYAR (*Chief Engineer*): I do not know of any such in the Trivandrum town. I know of some elsewhere in the Trivandrum taluk and in some other taluks.

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum* cum *Nedumangad*): I wish to know if the Chief Engineer and the Executive Engineers in charge of divisions journey on foot in their circuits, or on horseback.

MR. K. V. NATESA AIYAR (*Chief Engineer*): We are not ordinarily riding on horses now after motor cars have come into use. Wherever it is necessary to ride, we find horses for the purpose. I have been walking miles and miles recently and I have got this throat trouble as a consequence thereof. (*Laughter.*)

I beg to add that there is a correction in the demand. This sum of Rs. 5,400 for the additional staff is the cost per annum. The amount required for the remaining months of the year as explained by me already is only Rs. 2,250 including the pay of a 2nd grade Supervisor. The sum to be voted by the Council is only Rs. 1,625. The total demand to be voted is thus only Rs. 59,995, (Rs. 58,370 for works and Rs. 1,625 for staff).

The motion was put to the vote and carried.

DEMAND XXII.—MISCELLANEOUS—BRITISH EMPIRE EXHIBITION.

MR. R. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): Sir, I beg to move for a grant not exceeding Rs. 31,129 on account of the expenditure connected with the participation of the State in the British Empire Exhibition, 1924.

In 1922 the Government after a careful consideration of the matter decided to participate in the British Empire Exhibition and communicated its decision to the Madras Government and provided a sum of Rs. 5,000 in the budget estimate for 1098. This was voted by the present Legislative Council at its first sitting held in July, 1922.

MR. C. SANKARA MENON (*Quilon*): Was the matter referred to the Economic Development Board?

MR. R. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): This question was not specifically referred to that Board.

MR. K. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Tiruvalla*): Was the British Empire Exhibition referred to in the budget?

MR. R. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): It was not specifically mentioned in the budget for 1098. The usual heading—Madras and other exhibitions—was continued. The intention was to utilise the money for the Empire Exhibition.

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly